

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

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# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER* ..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*.....House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY* ..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*.....chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology*

**LD 1012 An Act Regarding Automated Calls**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAULIEU	ONTP	

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to strengthen the complaint process, enforcement and penalties regarding the laws involving telephone solicitations, particularly automated telephone solicitations for political candidates or issues or by nonprofit organizations.

**LD 1013 An Act To Create the Children's Wireless Protection Act**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BOLAND COLLINS		

This bill provides that a retailer may not sell at retail in this State a cellular telephone unless the cellular telephone and its packaging bear a warning label relating to the potential health effects associated with nonthermal effects of cellular telephone radiation. It requires the manufacturer of the cellular telephone to provide the warning labels to the retailer at no cost to the retailer. The bill also requires that any safety notification supplied by a cellular telephone manufacturer must have the language of the safety notification plainly visible on the outside of the product package or, if using a label, the label must be plainly visible on the outside of the package. This bill also requires the retailer to provide an information bulletin to the purchaser of a cellular telephone informing the purchaser of potential health risks associated with the use of cellular telephones. A violation of this provision is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 1026 An Act To Amend the Charter of the Ashland Water and Sewer District**

**P & S 10**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T NADEAU A	OTP-AM	S-69

This bill gives the Ashland Water and Sewer District the authority to impose a lien on the property of an individual, firm or corporation for nonpayment of assessments established by the district for service used by the individual, firm or corporation.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-69)**

This amendment imposes a lien on the property of an individual, firm or corporation for nonpayment of assessments established by the Ashland Water and Sewer District for service used by the individual, firm or corporation, subject to approval through a local referendum.

**Enacted Law Summary**

***Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology***

Private and Special Law 2013, chapter 10 imposes a lien on the property of an individual, firm or corporation for nonpayment of assessments established by the Ashland Water and Sewer District for service used by the individual, firm or corporation, subject to approval through a local referendum.

**LD 1060     An Act To Address Rising Electric Transmission Rates**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NEWENDYKE		

This bill requires that the Public Utilities Commission may not issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of a transmission line unless a description of the need for the proposed transmission line is provided; an analysis of nontransmission alternatives is conducted by an independent 3rd party selected by the Public Utilities Commission; the projected cost of the proposed transmission line is compared to the projected cost of feasible nontransmission alternatives based on total projected costs, regardless of who pays; preference is given to lower-cost alternatives; cleaner alternatives are given preference over alternatives that rely on fossil fuels; the Public Utilities Commission makes specific findings as to whether alternatives can address the identified need at lower total cost; and all cost-effective energy efficiency and demand response resources are being acquired in the applicable service territory of the utility that has proposed the project. This bill requires that, when the commission determines that the nontransmission alternatives can address the need at lower total cost but represent a larger increased cost to ratepayers of the State than the proposed transmission line, the commission make reasonable efforts to achieve an agreement among the states within the New England independent system operator region to allocate the cost of the nontransmission alternatives among the ratepayers of the region using the allocation method used for transmission lines or another allocation method that results in lower increased cost to ratepayers of the State.

This bill also requires that lower-voltage projects that are capable of operating at less than 69 kilovolts and projected to cost in excess of \$20,000,000 must be reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission before erection of the transmission line. The bill also establishes standards the Public Utilities Commission must use to review a lower-voltage project.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 1061     An Act To Regulate Meteorological Data-gathering Towers in Maine**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY	ONTP	

This bill requires applicants for wind energy permits to submit to the permitting municipality, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission or the Department of Environmental Protection a detailed summary of the data from each meteorological tower the applicant used in evaluating the suitability of a site for a wind energy development. The bill also requires municipalities, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection to provide certain notifications relating to permits for the construction or installation of a meteorological tower. The required notifications include notice to landowners within 8 miles of the tower, publication in daily and weekly newspapers and posting on the Internet.